B. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claim 1   (Previously Presented): A method for mitigating self-propagating electronic mail viruses, comprising:

receiving a request to send an electronic mail message with a file attachment to a plurality of intended recipients;

calculating at least one number of said plurality of intended recipients assigned to at least one group identifier in an address book storing each of said plurality of intended recipients in association with at least one of a plurality of separate group identifiers;

retrieving a maximum recipient limit specified for a particular extension type of file attachment from among a plurality of extension types of file attachments and specified for at least one group identifier from among said plurality of separate group identifiers, wherein an extension type of said file attachment matches said particular extension type of said file attachment;

comparing said at least one number of said plurality of recipients assigned to at least one group identifier in said address book with said maximum recipient limit; and

responsive to said at least one number of said plurality of recipients assigned to at least one group identifier in said address book exceeding said maximum recipient limit for said at least one group identifier, requesting a sender authorization prior to sending said electronic mail message, such that if a virus is attempting to self-propagate by sending said electronic mail message said attempt is mitigated.

Claim 2   (Canceled).

Claim 3   (Original): The method according to claim 1 for mitigating self-propagating electronic mail viruses, wherein receiving a request to send an electronic mail message with a file attachment further comprises:

    detecting a file embedded within said electronic mail message as a file attachment.

Claim 4   (Canceled).

Claim 5   (Cancelled).

Claim 6   (Original): The method according to claim 1 for mitigating self-propagating electronic mail viruses, wherein requesting a sender authorization prior to sending said electronic mail message further comprises:

    requesting at least one of an entry of a password as authorization and a manual sender input.

Claim 7   (Original): The method according to claim 1 for mitigating self-propagating electronic mail viruses, further comprising:

    receiving said maximum recipient limit from at least one of a network administrator and a user.

Claim 8   (Original): The method according to claim 1 for mitigating self-propagating electronic mail viruses, further comprising:

    responsive to receiving a denial of said sender authorization, alerting a network administrator that said electronic mail message was blocked.

Claim 9   (Previously Presented): A system for mitigating self-propagating electronic mail viruses, comprising:

a computing system communicatively connected to a network;

said computing system further comprising:

means for receiving a request to send an electronic mail message with a file attachment to a plurality of intended recipients;

means for calculating at least one number of said plurality of intended recipients assigned to at least one group identifier in an address book storing each of said plurality of intended recipients in association with at least one of a plurality of separate group identifiers;

means for retrieving a maximum recipient limit specified for a particular extension type of file attachment from among a plurality of extension types of file attachments and specified for at least one group identifier from among said plurality of separate group identifiers, wherein an extension type of said file attachment matches said particular extension type of said file attachment;

means for comparing said at least one number of said plurality of recipients assigned to at least one group identifier in said address book with said maximum recipient limit; and

means for requesting a sender authorization prior to sending said electronic mail message, responsive to at least one number of said plurality of recipients assigned to at least one group identifier in said address book exceeding said maximum recipient limit for said at least one group identifier.

Claim 10   (Canceled).

Claim 11   (Original): The system according to claim 9 for mitigating self-propagating electronic mail viruses, wherein said means for receiving a request to send an electronic mail message with a file attachment further comprises:

        means for detecting a file embedded within said electronic mail message as a file attachment.

Claim 12   (Canceled).

Claim 13   (Canceled).

Claim 14   (Original): The system according to claim 9 for mitigating self-propagating electronic mail viruses, wherein said means for requesting a sender authorization prior to sending said electronic mail message further comprises:

        means for requesting at least one of an entry of a password as authorization and a manual sender input.

Claim 15   (Original): The system according to claim 9 for mitigating self-propagating electronic mail viruses, further comprising:

        means for receiving said maximum recipient limit from at least one of a network administrator and a user.

Claim 16   (Original): The system according to claim 9 for mitigating self-propagating electronic mail viruses, further comprising:

        means responsive to receiving a denial of said sender authorization, for alerting a network administrator that said electronic mail message was blocked.

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Claim 17   (Previously Presented): A computer program product for mitigating self-propagating electronic mail viruses, comprising:

a volatile or non-volatile recording medium;

means, recorded on said recording medium, for receiving a request to send an electronic mail message with a file attachment to a plurality of intended recipients;

means, recorded on said recording medium, for calculating at least one number of said plurality of intended recipients assigned to at least one group identifier in an address book storing each of said plurality of intended recipients in association with at least one of a plurality of separate group identifiers;

means, recorded on said recording medium, for retrieving a maximum recipient limit specified for a particular extension type of file attachment from among a plurality of extension types of file attachments and specified for at least one group identifier from among said plurality of separate group identifiers, wherein an extension type of said file attachment matches said particular extension type of said file attachment;

means, recorded on said recording medium, for comparing said at least one number of said plurality of recipients assigned to at least one group identifier in said address book with said maximum recipient limit;

means, recorded on said recording medium, for requesting a sender authorization prior to sending said electronic mail message, responsive to said at least one number of said plurality of recipients assigned to at least one group identifier in said address book exceeding said maximum recipient limit for said at least one group identifier.

Claim 18   (Canceled).

Claim 19   (Original): The computer program product according to claim 17 for mitigating self-propagating electronic mail viruses, wherein said means for receiving a request to send an electronic mail message with a file attachment further comprises:

means, recorded on said recording medium, for detecting a file embedded within said electronic mail message as a file attachment.

Claim 20   (Canceled).

Claim 21   (Canceled).

Claim 22   (Original): The computer program product according to claim 17 for mitigating self-propagating electronic mail viruses, wherein said means for requesting a sender authorization prior to sending said electronic mail message further comprises:

means, recorded on said recording medium, for requesting at least one of an entry of a password as authorization and a manual sender input.

Claim 23   (Original) : The computer program product according to claim 17 for mitigating self-propagating electronic mail viruses, further comprising:

means, recorded on said recording medium, for receiving said maximum recipient limit from at least one of a network administrator and a user.

Claim 24   (Original): The computer program product according to claim 17 for
mitigating self-propagating electronic mail viruses, further comprising:

means, recorded on said recording medium, for alerting a network
administrator that said electronic mail message was blocked, responsive to receiving
a denial of said sender authorization.